

LEOLA; OR THE MYSTERIOUS RANGER.

A Tale of the Mexican War.

By T. Hamilton Van Ness.

Author of "Albion," "The Miller's Boy," "Wild Hermit," "Albion," "The Miller's Boy," etc.

Leola was prepared for this, but she was not prepared to accept the alternative, although she had no distrust of any man intended here. She began to enquire after friends and acquaintances, but learned that they had all vanished the city. She waited until night, and she was alone in the plan, and then, when all attempts to hear from Travis had failed, she reluctantly yielded, and started at day light for the convent of St. Isabel, with a letter to the lady Superior, sister Francis, recommending her to her care and protection. Mariano accompanied her on her journey, and two postillions, with accredited passports from General Taylor, were sent along as guards.

The lady of Leola was very sad, and, for the second time, she laid aside her native city, and she thought of Travis, the tears welled into her eyes. What had become of him? Had he fallen into the enemy's hands, or been murdered by them in some scouting expedition? Or, it would be over ascertaining her whereabouts, or seek her over during the war, or when it was over? Then came the thought that she would never see him more—that she was now leaving the world for ever, and that life was henceforth to be a blank and painful void, made up of the dull monotony of convent life, the unattractive and loving heart was to learn the lesson of self-sacrifice!

And while these things flitted through her mind and weighed upon her heart, the carriage rolled rapidly onward, leaving the city far behind them, the sun rose beautifully over the plains, and glimmered in the distant Rio del Norte. The morning wore slowly away, and Leola felt that they were travelling with unusual velocity. It was about ten o'clock, as they neared the little hamlet of Los Santos, that she was almost thrown from her seat by the sudden stopping of the carriage.

"What is the matter?" she cried, as she recovered her position.

"Poblen!" gasped Mariano.

"O no, my lady, only some friends who wish to bear you company," said a bold, well known voice, at the window.

"Senor Castillas!" cried Leola, aghast.

"Ay, Senor! you thought to escape me, did you not? But Monks and Cavaliers can plot as well as the *Señoritas*! and you will find the Carle of Don Eduardo Castillas quite as comfortable as the convent of St. Isabel!"

But Leola did not hear his words. She had fainted, and lay helpless in the arms of the frightened Mariano.

"Come," said Castillas, addressing the latter, as he lifted her from the vehicle, and placed her upon a horse in charge of one of the men. "Come! you shall keep your mistress company, if you mount a horse and go quietly; if not, I'll end your life with this pistol, and let you rot on the road!"

As he spoke, he presented the weapon at Mariano, who threw up his hands, and signified his willingness to obey.

"Away! and obey!" cried the chief, to the two men, who had charge of the females. They turned their horses into the wood, on the left, and rode rapidly away. Scarcely had they disappeared from sight, when the sound of a body of horse was heard coming up the road.

"Ah! what is this?" said the General. "Position! drive on as though nothing had happened. We'll to the chapparel, and teach these *Americano* a lesson!"

The postillions cracked their whips, and the carriage horses set off at a rattling pace, while the bandit and his score of men, vanished in the wood. The movement had scarcely been performed, for a dozen horsemen, dressed in the Texas uniform, rose over the distant activity, and as they beheld the flying carriages, they uttered a shout that made the welkin ring.

"There is our prize, comrades!" cried Travis, as he pointed his sword toward the vehicle.

"For sale!—the stock and fixtures—candy and variety goods—15th Street, and cheap rent. Apply for 3 days, 322 West 21st St."

TO LET—THE HOUSE AND STORE 91 CHURCH ST. Inquire of W. WILSON, at 100 West 10th St.

A STORE TO LET AND FIXTURES FOR SALE. A desirable grocery business at No. 321 West 10th St. Inquire of FREDERICK FISHER, in the store.

TO BE SOLD—GROCERY AND LIQUOR. A store, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 529 Second St.

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FOR SALE AND TO LET.

FOR SALE—AN OSTERIA SALOON. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

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BAKERY TO LET—THE OLD ESTABLISHED. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

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PIANOS AND MELODIONS. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

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BARGAINS—BARGAINS—BARGAINS. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

J. C. FISCHER—SUPERIOR. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—A FARM. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

THE CHEAPEST FARM IN MARKET. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

FOR SALE—A FARM OF 68 ACRES. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

\$20,000—\$20,000 ACRE FOR EXCEL. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

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FOR SALE—TWO PHILADELPHIA. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

RENTS—RENTS—RENTS. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

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TO LET—A VERY PLEASANT DRY. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

FOR SALE IN EAST NEWARK. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

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FOR SALE—A GRAY HORSE, Sound. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

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RED ASH (PEACH ORCHARD.) LEIGH. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

PRIME ARTICLE OF COAL—BEST. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

ALL MY COAL DELIVERED, SCREENED. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

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COAL—BEST PEACH ORCHARD, RED. A house, with gas and grocery water, with the lease, and good business. Apply on the premises, 45 Eighth Ave.

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